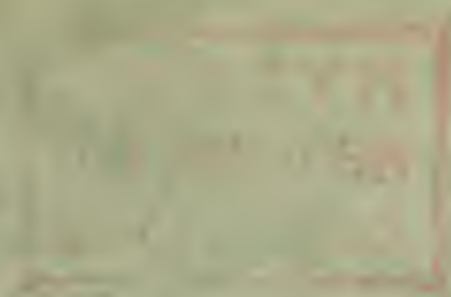


*L. King*



# MELFORD RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of West Suffolk



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1957





To the Chairman and Members  
of the  
Melford Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report on the Public Health Service of the Melford Rural District for the year 1957.

The Registrar General's Estimate of the population shows a slight decline for the year, and the vital statistics vary only slightly from the national figures, both birth and death rates being somewhat lower.

No serious outbreaks of infectious diseases were reported apart from mild epidemics of Whooping Cough and Measles, no death occurred from a notifiable disease.

The Sewerage Schemes in Stoke-by-Nayland, Nayland and Bures made commendable progress and the Public Health Committee continued to press energetically for the Long Melford and Glemsford Schemes to be sanctioned, as conditions there exacerbated.

I should like to express my gratitude to the Chairman and to the Members of the Public Health Committee for their encouragement and interest and also to thank the Clerk of the Council, Mr. J.A. Shaw, the Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector, Mr. J.A.E. Burrows, and Mr. H.J. Harrington your Water Engineer for the help and co-operation I have received from them. Finally I owe to Dr. McCracken, the County Medical Officer, a deep debt of gratitude for all that he did for me while I was on sick leave.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. P. BARCLAY,

Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS

(Figures in brackets relate to the previous year)

Area of the District. ....	47,270-acres.
Rateable Value. ....	... (£93,953.) £91,610.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate..	(£380. 1s. 8d.) £368. 12s. 10d.
Number of inhabited houses. ....	(4,473) 4,497
Population (Registrar General's Estimate) ...	(12,890) 12,830.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate. ....	(78) 82	(83) 77	(161) 159
Illegitimate... ..	(2) 1	(3) 4	(5) 5
Totals... ..	(80) 83	(86) 81	(166) 164

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude)	(12.9)	14.8
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (adjusted)	(13.0)	12.8
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	(15.7)	16.1
Illegitimate Birth Rate... ..	(3.0%)	3.3%

Still Births:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate. ....	(3) 1	(1) 3	(4) 4
Illegitimate... ..	(-) -	(1) -	(1) -
Totals... ..	(3) 1	(2) 3	(5) 4

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live & still births	(29.3)	24.4
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live & Still births (England & Wales)	(23.0)	22.4



Deaths:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	(88) 69	(91) 77	(179) 146
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude)	(13.9)	11.4	
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (adjusted)	(12.4)	10.0	
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	(11.7)	11.5	
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion.	(Nil)	Nil	

Infant Mortality.

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age:

					<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate. ...	...	...	...	...	(4) 1	(1) 1	(5) 2
Illegitimate...	...	...	...	...	(-) -	(-) 1	(-) 1
Totals...	...	...	...	...	(4) 1	(1) 2	(5) 3

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births. ...	(30.1)	24.4
(b) All infants England and Wales. ...	(23.8)	23.0

Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age:

					<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate. ...	...	...	...	...	(4) 1	(-) 1	(4) 2
Illegitimate...	...	...	...	...	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Totals...	...	...	...	...	(4) 1	(-) 1	(4) 2

CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Measles. ....	( - ) --	( - ) -	( - ) -
Whooping Cough. ....	( - ) -	( - ) -	( - ) -
Diphtheria.....	( - ) -	( - ) -	( - ) -
Influenza. ....	( - ) 1	( 2 ) -	( 2 ) 1
Cancer (All types).. ...	(17) 16	(15) 13	(32) 29
Vascular Lesions of the nervous system....	(10) 8	(20) 19	(30) 27
Heart Diseases (All forms). ...	(29) 28	(34) 24	(63) 52
Diabetes. ....	( - ) 1	( - ) -	( - ) 1
Pneumonia. ....	( 5 ) 3	( 3 ) 3	( 8 ) 6
Bronchitis.....	( 5 ) 3	( 1 ) -	( 6 ) 3
Other Respiratory Diseases. ...	( - ) 1	( - ) -	( - ) 1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum....	( 5 ) -	( 2 ) -	( 7 ) -
Nephritis. ....	( - ) 1	( - ) -	( - ) 1
Congenital Malformations.. ...	( - ) -	( - ) 3	( - ) 3
Accidents (Not motor vehicles)..	( 1 ) 1	( 3 ) 3	( 4 ) 4
Accidents (motor vehicles). ...	( - ) 1	( - ) -	( - ) 1
Suicide... ..	( - ) -	( - ) 1	( - ) 1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases....	(16) 5	(11) 11	(27) 16
Total... ..	(88) 69	(91) 77	(179) 146



## SECTION B.

### 1. Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health, who also serves other districts.

Senior Public Health Inspector, whole time,  
J.A.E. Burrows, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspector, whole time,  
I.C. Hazell, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

### 2. Ambulance Facilities

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance service.

### 3. Nursing in the Home

The West Suffolk County Council's Home Nursing and Midwifery service supply six District Nurses.

### 4. The West Suffolk County Council provide four Infant Welfare Centres in the District at Long Melford, Glemsford, Nayland and Great Waldingfield.

### 5. Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory Service, directed by the Medical Research Council at Ipswich, has given the district very generous service.

The Public Analyst for the County has given Reports on the analysis of the water in the Area.

SECTION C.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES.

The following Report is submitted by Mr. H.J. Harrington, the Council's Water Engineer:

During the year ended 31st March, 1958, the Public Water Supplies in the Council's area have been very satisfactory both in quantity and quality.

A small section of 3" water main was installed at Barrow Hill, Acton, to serve 5-properties.

At the end of March, 1958, 4,087 houses were receiving a main water supply, 2,789 properties having a Laid-on supply and 1,298 properties being served by means of Standpipes in gardens.

Detailed information relating to each Parish is set out below:-

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Laid-on Supplies.</u>	<u>Standpipe Supplies.</u>	<u>Total Number of properties connected.</u>
Acton. ... ..	156.	28	184
Assington... ..	85	36	121
Great Cornard. ... ..	464	59	523
Little Cornard.... ..	55	26	81
Chilton. ... ..	65	19	84
Leavenheath. ... ..	63	32	95
Newton. ... ..	77	30	107
Long Melford. ... ..	517.	274	791
Great Waldingfield. ... ..	82	69	151
Little Waldingfield. ... ..	57	19	76
Stoke-by-Nayland.. ... ..	157	56	213
Nayland. ... ..	202	42	244
Alpheton.... ..	53	19	72
Boxted. ... ..	25	-	25
Glemsford... ..	219	384	603
Hartest. ... ..	93	27	120
Lawshall.... ..	103	49	152
Shimpling... ..	71	18	89
Stanstead... ..	37	49	86
Somerton.... ..	19	14	33
Bures St. Mary.... ..	189	48	237
Totals.... ..	2,789	1,298	4,087



The consumption per head per day of the Population served on the various Schemes was as follows:-

Central Area Scheme - Source of Supply, Great Cornard Bore

Serving the Parishes of Great and Little Cornard, Long Melford, Acton, Great and Little Waldingfield, Chilton, Newton and Leavenheath - 15.00 gallons per head per day. (12.08)

Stoke-by-Nayland Scheme - Source of Supply, Bore, Scotland Street, Stoke-by-Nayland

Serving the Parishes of Stoke-by-Nayland and Nayland with Wissington - 17.41 gallons per head per day. (20.53)

Northern Area Water Scheme - Supply purchased in bulk from Thingoe Rural District Council

Serving the Parishes of Glemsford, Stanstead, Boxted, Hartest, Somerton, Lawshall, Shimpling and Alpheton. - 16.39 gallons per head per day. (14.48)

Bures St. Mary Scheme - Supply purchased in bulk from Lexden & Winstree Rural District Council

Serving the Parish of Bures St. Mary only - 17.63 gallons per head per day. (15.20)

Figures in Parentheses refer to year 1956.

None of the sources of supply tended to have Plumbo-Solvent action.

Examination of Supplies.

All supplies were analysed during the year by the Council's Analyst, at The Analytical Laboratory, Haywards Heath, Sussex, in accordance with the Water Abstraction Regulations, 1947, and all proved to be very satisfactory.

The total amount of water supplied during the year was 113,337,000 gallons, made up as follows:-

For domestic purposes:	76,273,000-gallons.
Supplied by meter:	37,064,000-gallons.
Total	<u>113,337,000-gallons.</u>

The above figure represents a consumption of 24.26 gallons per head per day of the population for all purposes.



SECTION D.

REPORT OF MR. J. A. E. BURROWS

Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector

WATER SUPPLIES - Private

Twenty-one samples of water were submitted for bacteriological analysis. Ten of these were for the preparation of evidence in connection with a proposed water main extension through a sparsely populated area depending mainly upon spring waters. It is interesting to note that while the springs produced satisfactory samples, two out of the three shallow wells did not, one being described by the bacteriologist as "dreadful". The extension of the water main was later approved.

A well serving three cottages in another part of the District gave consistently bad results despite cleansing and chlorination. The Council finally decided to extend its water main to serve these and three other properties.

Four other samples submitted for bacteriological analysis gave satisfactory results. No samples were submitted for chemical analysis.

SEWERAGE SCHEMES.

Acton.

This Scheme has continued to function satisfactorily except for the amount of suspended matter in the final effluent, which has been the subject of a complaint by the Essex River Board. The trouble is undoubtedly due to the fact that cesspool contents from the housing estates of Long Melford, Glemsford and other parishes in the north of the District are disposed of through this works, causing overloading.

Bures.

The new disposal works serving the villages of Bures St. Mary and Bures Hamlet came into operation in September. The Council circularised property owners as the Scheme neared completion and by the end of the year twenty-eight private properties and eighteen Council houses were draining into the sewer on the Bures St. Mary side of the river. No trade-wastes were being treated. No connections were made in Bures Hamlet because of excessive infiltration of surface water into the sewer.



### Nayland and Stoke-by-Nayland.

The combined disposal works for these Parishes has functioned satisfactorily, complying with the conditions of the River Board so far as the effluent is concerned, although there was in July, a sharp and unexplained rise in suspended solids to the maximum permitted.

In Nayland nineteen additional properties were connected and in Stoke-by-Nayland twenty, bringing the total number connected in the two villages to One hundred and sixteen and eighty-one respectively. In addition the whole of the sewage from the British Legion Hospital is received for treatment. No trade wastes are received.

### Great Waldingfield.

In this Parish an ex-aerodrome disposal works is operated, although not owned, by the Council. About eight properties, mostly converted ex-W.D., buildings are connected, but the works has been one of the two main disposal points for cesspool contents. Structurally it is in a very bad condition and complaints have been received from the River Board because of the unsatisfactory effluent leaving the works. Eventually it is hoped to modernise the plant and use it for a village scheme.

### General.

All the above works have been maintained by two men, one of whom is paid a travelling allowance for his car. This has worked satisfactorily. These schemes have made heavy demands on the time of Mr. Hazell and myself, so much so, that when a new scheme comes into operation Mr. Hazell has very little time to spare ~~for~~<sup>from</sup> the supervision of new connections. Analysis of work done throughout the year shows that out of a total of 1,829 visits made 611 were in connection with the new sewerage schemes. The Council has continued its policy of providing free connections up to the boundaries of the applicants properties, and this undoubtedly encourages house-owners to connect up their properties. The work is carried out by the Council's Contractor which ensures uniformity of practice and workmanship.

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEMES FOR COUNCIL ESTATES

Small Sewage Disposal Plants are provided for Council housing in the Parishes of Assington (2), Leavenheath, Little Waldingfield, Shimpling, Somerton and Stanstead. The regular maintenance of these, presents some problems. An effort is made to desludge the tanks not less than four times a year, using a cleansing unit, but it is difficult to obtain, from these small works, effluents which are always satisfactory.



## NIGHT SOIL COLLECTION.

The Council continued to provide by Contract, a weekly collection service for Long Melford, Bures St. Mary, Great Cornard and parts of Glemsford and Chilton. A number of requests from Glemsford and elsewhere for the extension of this service have been received, but the Council has not felt able to accede to these.

## CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE.

By April, the waiting list of private cesspools needing to be emptied was so long that the Council decided that new arrangements should be made under which all private cesspools were emptied by a private contractor upon request. To offset the extra cost involved the charge for the service was increased to £1., per load or part load. On the whole this revised scheme was well received by householders as it ensured that normally all cesspools were emptied within a week of the request being made. During the year 450 emptyings were made from 351 properties. There was a great increase in the demand for the service from Great Cornard, amounting to nearly half the total work done. The properties served were distributed through the District as follows:-

Acton. ....	7
Alpheton....	4
Assington...	5
Boxted. ....	4
Bures St. Mary....	12
Chilton. ....	7
Glemsford...	14
Great Cornard. ...	148
Great Waldingfield.	23
Hartest. ....	8
Lawshall....	5
Leavenheath. ....	10
Little Cornard....	11
Little Waldingfield.	5
Long Melford. ...	46
Nayland. ....	3
Wissington.. ...	1

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Carried forward. ... 313



Brought forward ...						313
Newton.	...	...	...	...	...	15
Shimpling....	...	...	...	...	...	4
Somerton. ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Stanstead....	...	...	...	...	...	4
Stoke-by-Nayland...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Total.. ...						<u>351</u>

No service is provided for those properties which could drain into one of the new sewers.

The Council's vehicles were engaged entirely from June onwards on Council house and sewage disposal work.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Council continued to operate two refuse collection vehicles, providing a weekly collection in the Parish of Long Melford, and a fortnightly collection for the rest of the District.

#### HOUSING.

Until sewers are provided in certain villages, programmes for Council house building are at a stand-still and little progress can be made in the clearance of unfit houses. Nevertheless, some preliminary surveys were made which will be useful later.

In the meantime much good work has been done by private owners with the help of Improvement Grants under the Housing Acts 1949 and 1954. Every encouragement is given to interested persons to obtain official advice before starting any scheme and 110 visits of preliminary inspection, and to check schemes in progress or completed, were made. Improvement Schemes for 38 cottages were completed, 17 being for agricultural cottages, one for a non-agricultural let-house, the remaining 20 being owner-occupied properties.

Three properties were inspected following requests for Certificates of Disrepair under the Housing Act, 1957. Certificates of Disrepair were later issued.

Two hundred and two proposals were submitted for consideration under the Council's Building Byelaws and/or the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947. Two hundred and thirty-four visits were made to works in progress.

Three houses were rendered fit by the owners after informal action. No statutory action for the repair of houses was necessary.

Thirty-four new houses or bungalows were completed, these being situated in the following parishes:-

Great Cornard.	...	...	...	...	...	8
Lawshall.	...	...	...	...	...	7
Long Melford.	...	...	...	...	...	4
Stoke-by-Nayland.	...	...	...	...	...	3
Glemsford.	...	...	...	...	...	3
Acton.	...	...	...	...	...	2
Newton.	...	...	...	...	...	2
Alpheton.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Assington.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chilton.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Little Waldingfield.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nayland.	...	...	...	...	...	1

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#### MEAT INSPECTION.

There are seven slaughterhouses operating in the area. One, at Bures, supplies a wide area outside the Melford Rural District, the others, situated at Stoke-by-Nayland, Nayland, Long Melford (2) Hartest and Glemsford, are attached to butcher's shops and cater for a local trade only. Unfortunately the Bures Slaughterhouse operates into the early evening on most days of the week and every Sunday morning, necessitating regular overtime. Holidays and the occasional absence through illness made only 93% post-mortem inspections possible, while systematic ante-mortem inspection was quite out of the question.

Twenty-eight carcasses were found to be affected with cysticercus bovis, but as the finding of a cyst by the only practicable method of inspection has an element of luck about it, I often wonder how many others have been missed. Fortunately most of the cysts found are in an advanced state of degeneration and are probably dead. All the carcasses found to be affected are subjected to cold store treatment for three weeks.

Five tons seventeen hundredweight of meat and offal were condemned.



The following table gives details of killings, inspections and condemnations:-

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed. ... ..	3,806	21	131	1,514	5,920
Number inspected.. ... ..	3,561	21	125	1,284	5,602
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned. ...	-	1	-	-	12
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned. ...	190	2	1	-	79
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with disease other than tuberculosis..	5.3	14.3	0.8	0.1	1.6
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned. ...	3	-	1	-	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned. ...	113	-	-	-	86
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with tuberculosis..	3.25	-	0.8	-	1.6

INSPECTION OF FOOD STUFFS  
OTHER THAN FRESH MEAT.

At wholesale and retail shops the following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption:-

Meat Products.	...	...	...	...	52-tins.
Vegetable Products..	...	...	...	...	6-tins.
Fruit Products.	...	...	...	...	11-tins.
Fish Products.	...	...	...	...	6-tins.
Milk Products.	...	...	...	...	22-tins.

### NUISANCES.

Thirty-four complaints of various kinds were received, ranging from the unpleasant smell from a neighbour's property to an infestation of bats in a parish Church. All were investigated and, where necessary, dealt with by informal action.

### FOOD PREMISES AND FOOD HYGIENE.

Other duties have left very little time available for this aspect of public health which is to be regretted in view of its recognised importance.

### BUTCHERS SHOPS.

These are visited regularly in connection with meat inspection. Nine are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture of sausages.

### WET FISH AND FRIED FISH SHOPS.

Two shops were registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the frying of fish and one for the smoking of fish.



#### SALE OF ICE CREAM .

Thirty-seven premises were registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale of ice cream.

#### MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, ETC.

There were thirteen persons registered as Distributors of Milk in the District and four premises (not being dairy farms) were registered as Dairies. Ten Dealers were licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk and eleven to sell Pasteurised Milk.

#### RODENT CONTROL.

There was no change in this service, one operator continued to tour the District methodically. No heavy infestations of rats were reported.

No statutory action was required.

#### FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

##### SECTION 34.

A start was made in the revision of out-of-date Certificates of Adequate Means of Escape in case of Fire. Three large factories were surveyed in detail and new certificates issued.

SECTION E.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases Notified during Yar.

CASES NOTIFIED.

CIVILIAN

<u>Disease.</u>				<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1955.</u>	<u>1954.</u>
Scarlet Fever. ...	...	...	...	26	15	1	35
Whooping Cough. ...	...	...	...	102	30	35	137
Measles. ...	...	...	...	85	415	122	-
Diphtheria....	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia. ...	...	...	...	31	28	15	19
Erysipelas....	...	...	...	1	1	-	1
Ophthalmia - Neonatorum...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis. ...	...	...	...	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever. ...	...	...	...	1	1	-	1
Infective Hepatitis. ...	...	...	...	10	6	1	2
Dysentery. ...	...	...	...	-	14	4	3
Paratyphoid Fever...	...	...	...	-	2	-	-
Food Poisoning. ...	...	...	...	-	-	4	-
Meningococcol Infection...	...	...	...	-	1	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

	<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>			<u>Total all Types</u>
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>	
No: of cases on register at commencement of year.	21	29	50	3	7	10	60
No: of cases added during the year.	1	9	10	1	3	4	14
No: of cases removed during the year.	3	1	4	1	5	6	10
No: of cases remaining on register at end of year.	19	37	56	3	5	10	64



SECTION F.

ANTHRAX ORDER, 1938.

Several cases of anthrax in livestock were notified. The disposal of the carcasses of those animals, either by deep burial in lime or by incineration, was supervised.

SECTION G.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF  
THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

I. - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	No: On Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	1	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	67	12	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	25	-	-
TOTAL.	68	38	-	-

II - Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

N I L

III - Part VIII - OUTWORKERS.

<u>Nature of Work.</u>	<u>Number.</u>
Fur Pulling. ... ..	42
Box Making... ..	3
	<hr/> 45 <hr/>

SECTION H.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47 - Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No case arose during the year calling for action in accordance with this Section of the Act.

X-X-X-X-X-X-X



